

m/003/025



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Sawtooth National Forest  
Minidoka Ranger District

3650 South Overland Ave.  
Burley, ID. 83318-3242  
208-678-0430  
Fax: 208-677-4878

File Code: 2810

Date: July 11, 2007

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 13 2007**

**DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING**

Bill Bown  
Bonneville Quarries, Inc.  
842 West 400 North  
West Bountiful, UT 84087

Dear Mr. Bown:

On June 20, 2007, we received your plan of operations amendment for expansion of the Lynn Springs Quarry, T.14N., R.16W., Sections 20 and 29, Raft River Division, Utah. On July 3, 2007 and July 6, 2007 inspections were conducted on the proposed expansion areas for the operation. We are also conducting fieldwork for the clearances that will be required for this project, specifically for cultural resources and threatened and endangered species.

After reviewing your plan of operations and discussing with staff specialists in the field, it was determined that we do not have enough information to proceed with processing your plan of operations under 36CFR228A. You indicated that the Shipley Group would be working on a more detailed plan of operations that you will submit to us as soon as possible. We would appreciate if you could give us an idea when we can expect to receive this plan of operations so that we can schedule specialist time for review. Because your operations are currently limited to existing disturbed areas and the length of time that is involved in completing an environmental analysis, even by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor, it is critical that we receive the plan of operations as soon as possible so that NEPA process can begin.

The plan of operations will need to contain as much detailed information as possible. The following are examples of information that we will need to complete review of your plan of operations:

- 1) We will need more information regarding the post-mining topography of the project area. This should include maps showing the anticipated post mining topography with probable water flow directions through or around quarry and disturbed areas. We will also need to get an estimate on the anticipated unreclaimed pit wall areas that might remain at the close of operations.
- 2) We will need more detail on the quarry layout such as benching and highwall dimensions and work area locations.
- 3) We will need more detail on how the proposed concurrent reclamation would be conducted including estimates of acreage to be reclaimed per year and reclamation objectives such as slope angles and methods to insure slope stability and erosion control.
- 4) Your proposed operations include the use of a crusher to produce aggregate. We will need an estimate of aggregate production per year and how this material will be used.



- 5) We will need more detail on your operations and schedule. This should include how many loads per day would be hauled off the site, the amount of employees anticipated, the use of porta-potties etc.
- 6) Your plan of operations proposed pushing the existing waste rock pile downslope to form a perimeter berm to pile additional waste rock behind. Would the crusher be used on the existing waste rock pile at the north quarry prior to pushing downslope? Because there are hundreds of pinyon and juniper trees that would be pushed down into the berm as well, we are concerned that the vegetative matter would affect the stability of the berm and could affect reclamation when the waste rock is brought back up the hill. Additionally, the pinyon-juniper may have a salvage value that should be explored before it is pushed over. Salvaging the pinyon and juniper would also facilitate topsoil salvage if possible.
- 7) The road is currently in poor shape. Would aggregate produced be used to improve the road?
- 8) The site is not marked to warn the public of the hazards of the operation. The plan of operations must discuss methods (signs, gates) that would be used for public safety.
- 9) The addition of a crusher would increase both dust production and noise levels at the site. What would be done to minimize dust production and would the increase in noise level be substantial as compared to present operations?
- 10) We will need a detailed list of additional permits that may be required by other governmental agencies for this project.
- 11) Would there be an increase in both truck and vehicle travel to the site? If there is an increase, do you anticipate any modifications, such as turnouts, to the main access road or signing to warn the public of truck and vehicle travel to the quarries? Would the gate on the main access road at the Forest Service boundary still be adequate or would a cattle guard be necessary?
- 12) What methods would be used to control noxious weeds being brought onto the Forest from vehicles and equipment? Could a wash station be set up below on private land or are there other methods that could be used for weed control?

During our recent inspections it was noted that the east edge of the quarry has been pushed to the edge of the road along the edge of the quarry. This has created a hazardous situation where the road is immediately next to the pit with a sheer drop off between 12 – 30 vertical feet. This will need to be secured as soon as possible because this road is accessible to the public. Fencing would probably be the best way to secure the hazard along with the posting of warning signs.

The inspectors also found a noxious weed, henbane, in the area where the pallets and equipment are stored. Thistle was also found. These need to be controlled as quickly as possible to prevent them from spreading to other parts of the quarry and being carried by equipment and vehicles to other sites both on and off the National Forest. If you need assistance in controlling weeds at the site, please contact Lucas Phillips or Kevin Parker, Range Specialists, at this office for further information.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Steve Flock, Minerals Management Specialist, at the above address or telephone number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Nannenga", written over a horizontal line.

SCOTT C. NANNENGA  
Minidoka District Ranger

cc. Lynn Kunzler  
Utah Div. of Oil, Gas and Mining  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

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